

SENATE BILL 1127

By Campbell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;
Title 38; Title 50 and Title 56, relative to liability
insurance for law enforcement officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of this state or a
political subdivision of this state authorized by law to employ peace officers; and

(2) "Peace officer" means an individual elected, appointed, or employed
to serve as a peace officer for a law enforcement agency.

(b) This section applies only to a peace officer, other than a reserve peace
officer, who:

(1) Works as a peace officer for a law enforcement agency; and

(2) Is entitled to benefits normally offered to a full-time peace officer by
the employing agency, such as retirement benefits.

(c) A law enforcement agency shall not employ a peace officer unless the peace
officer obtains and continuously maintains liability insurance to cover damages resulting
from misconduct, including intentional, negligent, or willful acts, committed by the peace
officer while acting in the scope of the peace officer's employment for the law
enforcement agency.

(d) Liability insurance obtained and maintained for purposes of subsection (c)
must comply with the rules adopted by the commissioner under subsection (e).

(e)

(1) The commissioner shall adopt rules with respect to the liability insurance required by subsection (c) that:

(A) Set a minimum coverage amount for a policy that allows for a reasonable number of victims to be compensated; and

(B) Require a policy to state that the policy is provided in accordance with and is subject to this section.

(2) Rules adopted under this subsection (e) must be adopted in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules and carrying out administrative duties necessary to effectuate this act, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act take effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.